March 2006, both sides decided to encourage delegations of importers and exporters of tea to visit respective countries.

(d) The agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), after ratifiaction by all member states, including Pakistan, came into force from 1st January 2006 and its phased Tariff Liberalization Programme (TLP) has been effected from 1st July 2006. Pakistan has also issued notification to give effect to the TLP of SAFTA.

(e) During April 2005 to March 2006, the volume of bilateral trade was valued at US$ 859.33 million as compared to US $ 616.02 million during the same period in 2004-2005 registering an increase of 39.50%. It is expected that the volume of bilateral trade will increase further.

Export of herbal/medicinal plants

189. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been exporting herbal/medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the total value of medicinal plants exported during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to export the finished products only not plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, India has been exporting herbal/medicinal plants. The export values of crude drugs (excluding herbal extracts) for the last three years are as follows:

2003-04	Rs. 253.08 crores
2004-05	Rs. 227.45 crores
2005-06 (upto Dec. 2005)	Rs. 207.35 crores

(c) to (e) No Sir, according to the current Foreign Trade Policy, export of several medicinal plants and finished products are permitted. However, the Government encourages export of value added herbal products because

India has rich natural resources and technical expertise to prodce value added herbal products.

Trade surplus with Pakistan

190. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country registered a trade surplus with Pakistan during the current year;

(b) if so, the details of exports and imports which took place in each category for the said period so far; and

(c) the income generated from each category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The trade data has been compiled up to 2005-2006 (April 2005 to March 2006). The Statement of bilateral trade between India and Pakistan given shows that the trade balance has been in favour of India.

India-Pakistan bilateral trade

(Value: In US $ Million: Source DGCI&S Kolkata)

Year	Exports to Pakistan	Imports from Pakistan	Trade balance	Total Trade
2002-03	206.16	44.85	161.31	251.01
2003-04	286.94	57.65	229.29	344.59
2004-05	521.05	94.97	426.08	616.02
2005-06	681.85	177.48	504.37	859.33

Major items of India's export to Pakistan and major items of import from Pakistan during 2005-2006 (April 2005 to March 2006) along with their value in dollar terms are given below: